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SUBJECT: BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER OF INTERIOR THOMAS
SCHAEUBLE CONCERNED OVER INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME

1. (SBU) Summary: In a meeting with the Consul General on January 29, Baden-Wuerttemberg (B-W) Minister of Interior, Dr. Thomas Schaeuble (CDU) expressed his regret over anti-American statements in recent election campaigns. On terrorism, Schaeuble is concerned about a lack of cooperation from the Muslim community in B-W. The B-W police have seen a significant increase in violent crime committed by ethnic Germans. Schaeuble complained about leaks of sensitive information, which hinders closer cooperation with foreign intelligence services. End Summary.

2. (SBU) Minister Schaeuble regretted the anti-American rhetoric in the Social Democratic Party's (SPD) election campaigns in Hesse and Lower Saxony. He noted that there has always been a certain amount of anti-Americanism in Germany but that the national government should refrain from such statements. Cooperation in southwest between the U.S. military and the B-W police has always been excellent, Schaeuble said.

3. (SBU) On internal security, Schaeuble sees an "abstract threat potential" in Germany. Germany has a large Muslim community and some members are criminals. There are about three million Muslims living in Germany, and three to four hundred thousand in B-W. About 50 Muslims in B-W are considered dangerous. According to Schaeuble, the lack of integration of the Muslim community into the German population creates tensions. He described Turkish communities as a "state within a state." It is almost impossible for police authorities to penetrate and observe Muslim groups. These communities provide excellent hiding spaces for potential terrorists. He also regretted that the Muslim community has not provided any tips to police to help find and arrest potential terrorists. Schaeuble noted that this reflects badly on law-abiding Muslims. Most arrests have come from tips from allied intelligence and law enforcement services. Schaeuble added that he wishes that U.S. intelligence agencies would be more willing to share information. On the other hand, he admitted that frequent leaks from German authorities to the media are not helpful.

4. (SBU) Schaeuble also described ethnic Germans as a problem. Drug trafficking and the increased brutality of crimes are his biggest concern. However, there is no evidence of links between ethnic Germans and the Russian mafia. Schaeuble pointed out that similar to the Muslim communities, ethnic Germans and young people in particular, show limited interest in playing an active role in German communities.

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